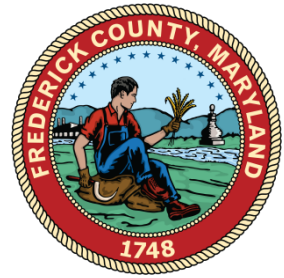




October 16, 2019



Frederick County Sustainability Commission  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:** John Ferri - Chair, Betty Law – Vice Chair, Jennifer Bird - Secretary, Mark Sankey, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Faith Klareich, Elizabeth Van Dolah, Joe Richardson, Kevin Sellner, Bill Steigleemann

**OSER staff:** Dawn Ashbacher, Shannon Moore

**Frederick County Council:** Kai Hagen

**Guests/Public:** Anne Bradley, Charlie Silverman, Karen Russell

**Meeting Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by John Ferri and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The September meeting minutes were reviewed by the Commission. Ron moved to approve the minutes. Betty seconded the motion. Kevin Sellner abstained. The minutes were approved.

**Presentation: Frederick County Agricultural Land Preservation Program – Anne Bradley:**

Anne works in Frederick County Planning and Permitting Division for the Agricultural Land Preservation Program

Frederick County is number 10 of nationally recognized farmland preservation programs.

Frederick County has 11% of total state farmland.

Techniques used to preserve land

Zoning, preferential tax assessments, comprehensive planning and water, sewer plans, transfer of development rights, purchase of development rights, donated easements

Elements of an agricultural preservation program

Funding, application deadline, ranking of properties, valuation of properties, purchase of development rights, recording of agricultural preservation easement

Must have soil conservation plan, prepared by the Soil Conservation District, and updated every 10 years.

County has a goal to preserve a minimum of 100,000 acres in total. Currently have 62,000 acres preserved.

Under the MD Agricultural Land Preservation Program – 21,815 acres preserved/143 farms protected

Frederick County Installment Purchase Program – 20,318 acres/130 farms protected

Rural Legacy Program – 6,457 acres/48 farms protected

Frederick County Critical Farms – 954 acres/7 farms in options

Program has helped more than 40 farms transfer ownership to farmers and preserve the farmland.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – 2,966 acres/27 farms protected

Program preserves ag land and conservation use

Additional programs are operating to preserve ag land.

Value of unencumbered farm is approximately \$7000/acre. A preserved farm value is approximately \$5000/acre.

#### **OSER Updates –Shannon Moore/Dawn Ashbacher:**

OSER closed their second PACE loan; it's for the Frederick Sports Plex.

OSER has completed Phase I of the stream restoration in Pt of Rocks.

Phase II will include decommissioning of a pond and restoration of the downstream reach.

Jan Gardner will receive an award as a forest champion for the bay.

Frederick County received a Plan of the Year Award for Livable Frederick from the American Planning Association's Maryland Chapter.

Power Saver Retrofits grant is up for renewal.

Last week was Business Appreciation Week – Dawn was able to participate.

Ordinance to allow OSER to have better enforcement rights for illicit discharges is in review with the County Council.

The County is revamping the Monocacy River Board. It is in the legislative process.

Solar Co-op advertisements are continuing.

#### **FCSC Livable Frederick/County Executive Follow-up Discussion:**

First two small area plans of focus are the Sugarloaf area and the MD355/MD85 corridor.

Discussion regarding FCSC involvement: John has drafted a letter to Livable Frederick staff expressing interest in being a part of the advisory committees. There could be a good

opportunity in the MD 355/MD85 corridor to implement walkable neighborhoods, charging stations, electric bus routes..etc. There may be an opportunity for Faith to reach out to Planning staff who led the redevelopment of the Rockville 355 corridor. They may be able to provide insight for Frederick County.

Our bylaws allow us to interact with Livable Frederick in a meaningful way.

Mark made a motion to authorize the chair to revise the letter based on comments received at this meeting. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Climate Change Graphic**

Kevin is developing a graphic to illustrate climate change impacts and solutions. Commission members are working on suggestions for the graphic and how to implement that into decision making as part of Livable Frederick.

### **Commission Members Items of Interest**

Ron – member of Sierra Club Conservation Committee – suggested that the Sierra Club form a committee for preservation of agriculture and forests. The suggestion has been approved.

Joe – stream restoration construction has started at his property and suggests a field visit from FCSC. Considering agro-forestry on the farm too.

Betty – Meeting with a group to brainstorm being more proactive in involvement at Fort Detrick Area B.

Faith – October 30 – webinar about farming methods in a de-carbonized world.

Kevin – tree planting event on October 26 in Thurmont, will include a discussion regarding revising the Forest Resource Ordinance.

### **Public Comments:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting will be November 20, 2019 at Bar T.